



Plant Chat

A Quarterly Publication from the Bismarck Plant Materials Center
to the NRCS Field Offices in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota

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Dogwoods

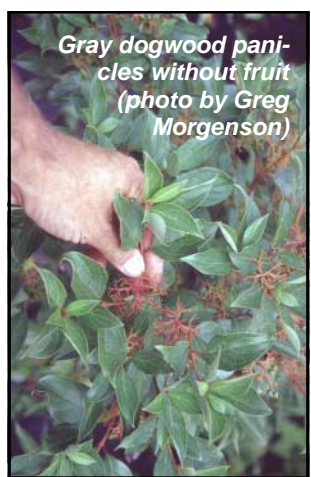
There is an old saying from plant identification courses that "you can always tell a dogwood by its bark." The most common dogwood found in our region is the redosier dogwood, which has red bark and white fruit. It grows along streams, drainage channels and other low places. There are several other dogwoods that can be grown in our region.

Gray dogwood, which has dark gray bark and white fruit, is native to

Another dogwood that grows in our region is the silky dogwood. Its stems are red when young but turn reddish



Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota. This shrub grows in drier locations than the redosier. Gray dogwood will be available to field offices from the Bismarck PMC for field plantings in the spring of 2003. If you are interested, complete a PM-9 and route it to the Plant Materials Specialist.



brown and gray as they mature. The Rose Lake PMC at East Lansing, Michigan, has released a cultivar called 'Indigo.' This cultivar has survived very well in our three-state region, tolerating drier sites than the redosier dogwood. This dogwood has bluish fruit that ripens in the fall. Most of the conservation tree nurseries carry silky dogwood. Ask for 'Indigo!' We recommend it.

Mike Knudson, Forester, Plant Materials Center

New Brochures

Two new PMC brochures are being sent to field offices in the three-state area. One is an updated brochure for the Red River natural germplasm prairie cordgrass, which was released in 1998. The other brochure promotes big bluestem as a native warm-season grass that can be used for high quality summer forage. Lower seed prices for big bluestem make this an economically viable species. Both brochures provide good technical information for use in support of the 2002 Farm Bill. Please share with interested partners and cooperators.

Mike Knudson, Forester, Plant Materials Center

PMC Varieties and Brochures

Since 1954, the Bismarck PMC has been developing hardy varieties of trees, shrubs, and grasses for use by NRCS Field Offices. When recommending these plants to cooperators, mention the variety name whenever possible, as these varieties are adapted to our climate. This applies to both the grasses and the trees and shrubs. Also, when ordering trees from the conservation tree nurseries, it is a good idea to request plants by variety name, even though not all the variety names show up on the printed tree lists. We are working to get the nurseries to use our variety names on their lists of available plants. The PMC has brochures for most of the varieties developed. If you need copies for the Field Office, contact the PMC.

Mike Knudson, Forester, Plant Materials Center

Tree/Shrub Varieties from the Bismarck PMC	
Midwest	Manchurian crabapple
Cardan	green ash
Oahe	hackberry
Sakakawea	silver buffaloberry
Scarlet	Mongolian cherry
Centennial	cotoneaster
McDermind	Ussurian pear
Homestead	Arnold hawthorn
Regal	Russian almond
Legacy	late lilac



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